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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 20, 2006. Claims 1-80 were pending, with claim 81 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 10-12, 15, 16, 18, 22-29, 32-34, 37, 38, 40, 44-51, 54-56, 59, 60, 62 and 66-80 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61 and 65 have been amended into independent form, and new claims 82-105 have been added. Accordingly, claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 19-21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 41-43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61, 63-65 and 82-106 are now pending, with claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61, 65, 82, 84-87, 89, 90, 92-95, 97, 98, 100-103 and 105 being in independent form.

Claims 1-4, 6, 23-26, 28, 45-48, 50, 67, 68, 71 and 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,696,598 to Yoshida et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,940,615 to Shima. Claims 5, 27, 49 and 74-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yoshida et al. in view of Shima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,966 to Toyoda. Claims 7, 10-12, 15, 16, 18, 22, 29, 32-34, 37, 38, 40, 44, 51, 54-56, 59, 60, 62, 66 and 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yoshida et al. in view of Shima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,818,609 to Yamamuro. Claims 69 and 78 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yoshida et al. in view of Shima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,493,103 to Toyoda. Claim 70 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yoshida et al. in view of Shima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,801,846 to Nobuta. Claim 79 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yoshida et al. in view of Shima and further in view of U.S. Patent No.

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5,959,741 to Yoshida et al. Claim 80 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yoshida et al. in view of Shima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,414,759 to Ikegami et al.

By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 10-12, 15, 16, 18, 22-29, 32-34, 37, 38, 40, 44-51, 54-56, 59, 60, 62 and 66-80 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejections are now moot.

The Office Action further indicated that claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 19-21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 41-43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61 and 63-65 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable (and thereby implies that the features set forth therein are not disclosed or suggested by the art of record) if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61 and 65 have been amended into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim, but without unnecessary limitations of intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61 and 65, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

New claims 82-105 correspond with 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 19-21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 41-43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61 and 63-65, and are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our

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Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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